

Women's

Theological

Coalition



Boston Theological Institute

BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

is an ecumenical and educational consortium of nine theological schools in the Boston area, founded for the purpose of sharing resources, and pioneering a new shape in theological education.

WOMEN'S THEOLOGICAL COALITION

is a program jointly sponsored by the nine BTI schools, and is designed to promote the cause of women in theological education. It represents the attempt of the BTI to provide advocacy and program development for women at a time when the experience of women in theological education and the church is being radically re-examined.

There are over 500 women students enrolled in the member schools. This is equal to a student body the size of many seminaries. It is probably the largest number of women degree candidates in any theological center in the world. There are sixteen full-time women faculty members in the BTI. Sixteen women teach part-time, including five research associates at Harvard Divinity School who provide additional resources in women's studies.

The WTC is what its name suggests, a "coalition", committed to a style of feminism that reflects the diversity of women within the BTI. It provides resources that enable women in different theological and church traditions, differing racial and ethnic communities, and differing perspectives on roles of women to explore their particular questions of identity, vocation, theology, and institutional change.

A WOMEN'S COMMITTEE consisting of women students, faculty, staff, and professional women from the community, serves as the planning group for the WTC. The Committee provides seed money for conferences, lectures, workshops, and student projects for the BTI and the greater Boston community.



A DIRECTOR serves as liaison between the Women's Committee and the schools, coordinating and developing programs that serve the whole BTI. She is a resource to each of the nine schools, meeting with women students, faculty and deans to help them strengthen their particular programs for women.

A STAFF of students doing part-time jobs or special field education projects for credit gain experience working with women and effecting institutional change while providing additional personnel for the WTC. Staff positions include: Office Manager, Doctoral Placement Service Coordinator, Media Coordinator.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS developed by women students and faculty provide additional services to women in the BTI.

- A Doctoral Placement Service for Women in Religious Studies helps place women in teaching and administrative positions in higher education.
- Training Women for Ministry, a program funded by the United Church of Christ at Andover Newton, is a year long seminar and summer training program led by three women ministers to help students define vocational goals and explore options for ministry.
- Placement of Women in Parish Ministries is an attempt to educate the American Baptist, African Methodist Episcopal, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Churches in Massachusetts on the placement needs of women in the ministry.
- "Affirmations", a monthly newsletter is a communication forum among women in the BTI and is circulated to women's centers across the country.



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WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES are offered in the fields of Old and New Testament, Theology, Church History, Ethics, Psychology, Church and Ministry. Courses for 1976-77 include: Image and Role of Women in the Age of the Re-formations

Training for Ministry

Specialized Ministries

Interpersonal Relations and Group Process

Women in Parish Ministry

Women's Ordination: After Minneapolis

Psychological and Ethical Approaches to Human Sexuality

Women in Hindu Society: Purity, Power, and Pleasure

Creating Culture: Freire's Method Theology from a Feminist Perspective-Beyond Freud and Oedipal Theology

The Role of Women in the Black Church in America

Ministerial Women and the Apostolic Church

SPECIAL PROJECTS funded by the Women's Committee and initiated, implemented, and evaluated by women students include:

Conference on Ministries for Evangelical Christian Women

Festival of Feminist Culture

Forum on Counselling for Problem Pregnancies

Symposium on Women and Religion

Women and Psychology Conference

Workshop on Racism and Sexism

Women in the Priesthood: A Call to Service

A Day for Your Spirit: Women and Spirituality

Symposium on Ethics and Women's Studies

Funds for the support of the WTC come from the BTI, from church-related groups, alumnae and private donors. For further information, write to:

Drector,

BTI Women's Theological Coalition

210 Herrick Road

Newton Centre, MA 02159

(617) 969-2946

MEMBER SCHOOLS OF THE BOSTON THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Andover Newton Theological School

Protestant, Interdenominational, historically related to the United Churches of Christ and the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Boston College, Department of Theology

Historically Roman Catholic, Interdenominational faculty

Boston University School of Theology

Predominantly United Methodist, other denominations as well

Episcopal Divinity School

Predominantly Protestant Episcopal, other denominations as well

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Predominantly Protestant non-denominational

Harvard Divinity School

Historically Protestant non-denominational, other faiths well represented

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary

Trains priests and other church leaders for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America

St. John's Seminary

The Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Seminary of Boston, also some religious orders

Weston School of Theology

Roman Catholic, historically Jesuit, now includes others. One of the few Roman Catholic institutions to admit women to all of its programs as full-time degree candidates.

rose ann olmstead
Andover Newton Theological School
215 Herrick Road - Box 195
Newton Centre, Massachusetts
02459



Washington at Princeton 1777 by Peale

US Bicentennial 13c

Rev. Marj Ragona
44 Gartland
Jamaica, Plains, Massachusetts.
02130

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17 March 1977

Dear Marj,

Thank you for your willingness to participate in our workshop on gay women and the church on the 26th of April. As I mentioned on the phone the other day, we hope to make this a two-session workshop. Our tentative schedule looks something like this:

First Week (19 April 1977):

7:30-8:30 Keynote Speaker

8:30-8:45 Break--Coffee and tea

8:45-9:15 Film

9:15-10:15 Discussion groups on film and lecture

10:15-10:30 Closing and announcements for following week.

Second Week (26 April 1977):

7:30-9:00 Panel Discussion

9:00-9:15 Break--Coffee and tea

9:15-10:15 Discussion groups with facilitators and panel

10:15-10:30 Closing--summary statement of what has gone on, how this can be a building block, resources available.

I know that is really sketchy but it should give you a general idea of the form we hope the workshop will take. As yet I do not know who our keynote speaker will be. We are in the process of trying to get Carter Heywood (an Episcopal woman priest teaching at Episcopal Divinity School) for the keynote address. We should know within a week if she will be available to give the address. If it would be helpful to you, I would be glad to tape the keynote address and get the tape to you before the panel discussion. I will also let you know the name of the film as soon as I know it.

There will be four other people on the panel with you. Nancy Richardson will act as the moderator of the panel. Nancy is one of a three member teaching/facilitating team for the Women in Ministry course at Andover Newton Theological School. Kip Tiernan will also be on the panel. Kip is a Catholic laywoman involved in the ministry team of St. Phillip's Parish (also known as Warwick House) in West Roxbury. We also hope to have two other women who may provide the perspectives of a gay woman who has left the church and a woman minister

(from a mainline Protestant tradition) who is doing ministry with the gay community and/or working with gay concerns. The major perspectives we hoped you could bring to the discussion are: 1) that of a gay woman who has chosen to stay in the church and 2) that of a woman minister who is working with gay people in the church.

In setting up the workshop our basic presupposition is that there are lesbian women in the church and that they are not able to be "out" in the church. We hope that the workshop will be educational in its emphasis and positive in its approach. We hope that the discussion (both in the panel and in the discussion groups) will address some of the following areas and concerns: 1) gay people belong in the church, 2) oppression of lesbians, 3) the response of the church (historical and present) to gay members, and 4) how liberating is the church if part of one's life is cut off?

We anticipate that the workshop will be attended by seminarians preparing for ministry, ministers in the geographical area, and (possibly) lay people. Our major means of advertising the conference will be through the Boston Theological Institute (which consists of seminaries in the Boston area) channels, particularly through Affirmations (a newsletter distributed to all women seminarians in the BTI schools).

The workshop is being planned by a subcommittee of the Women's Caucus of Andover Newton Theological School and has been endorsed by the Steering Committee of the Women's Theological Coalition of the Boston Theological Institute.

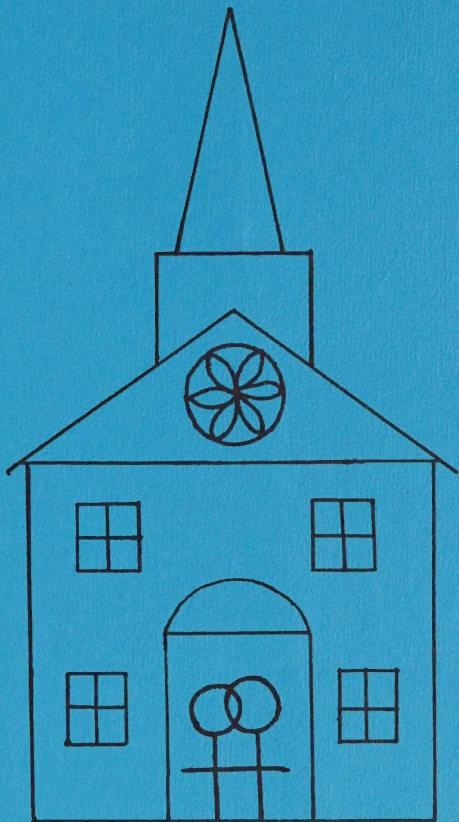
I think that covers most of what we are about in planning the workshop. If you have any questions which I have not answered here or suggestions which might be of help to us, please call me at 965-5610.

Thank you again for being part of the panel and discussion on the 26th of April. I am sorry you have another commitment on the 19th. We would have been delighted to have you with us on both dates.

Sincerely yours,

Rose Ann Olmstead

215 Herrick Road
Box 195
Newton Centre, Massachusetts
02159



Included In:
Gay Women and
the Church

Included In: Gay Women and the Church

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1977

7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

Berkeley Room, Kendall Hall
Andover Newton Theological School
Herrick Road
Newton Centre, Massachusetts

7:30 - 7:45 Introduction

7:45 - 8:00 Film

"Home Movie"

8:00 - 8:45 Keynote Speaker

Carter Heyward, Episcopal
priest, Associate Professor
at Episcopal Divinity School

8:45 - 9:00 Break (coffee & tea)

9:00 - 9:45 Small group
discussions

9:45 - 10:00 Closing

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1977

7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

*Faculty Lounge, Stoddard Hall
Andover Newton Theological School*

7:30 - 8:30 Panel Discussion

8:30 - 9:00 Break (coffee & tea)

9:00 - 9:45 Small group
discussions

9:45 - 10:00 Closing

PANEL PARTICIPANTS

Linda B. Brebner, minister of
counseling and social advocacy
at Old Cambridge Baptist
Church.

Marjorie F. Ragona, Boston
Director of Women's Ministries,
Metropolitan Community Church.

Nancy Richardson (moderator),
campus minister at Boston
University, Adjunct Professor
at Andover Newton Theological
School.

Kip Tiernan, team minister
at Warwick House, Roxbury.

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

I WILL ATTEND THE APRIL 21, 1977 SESSION _____
AND/OR THE APRIL 26, 1977 SESSION _____

Do you have any particular concerns that you would like to have addressed at the conference?

Please register by mail before April 15. There will also be limited registration at the door.

Women's Resource Center
Andover Newton Theological School
215 Herrick Road, Box 80
Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02159

Women we try to reach.

1. Women in ~~male~~ ~~infect~~ roles who will not try to "pass" & therefore are awkward & after made totally unwelcome in straight churches. These women have special religious needs, & are a kind of "gay ghetto".

2. Lesbian mothers & their children. Discriminated by ^{again} straight society & given a hard way to go by gays who condemn them for their prior betsy.

^{Lesbian}
3. Separatist women who are unreachable by any traditional church including MCC and who are reached only by working with them in ^{the} women's liberation & gay liberation movement & slowly building acceptance & trust → writing, working

being out & open and part of the community & having conferences like as well as the one kip was talking about - where in order to meet the needs of

Gay Church - No -
Christian Church &
a gay congregation.

A dozen guys in leather
B drag queens & 4
~~drag~~ ^{drag} queens sit in
your front row -
somebody gets
uncomfortable.

Gay women who cannot relate to a male God, male Christ, man kind, centered religion & where we are trying to find a way of making theology which is not woman-centered but which recognizes participations of women.

Gay, Straight, Red, Yellow, Black, White
Same struggle, same fight.

I can't afford to be a feminist.

Rev. Frank Scott
MCC - Pittsburgh
P.O. Box 9045
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15224

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MCC Boston
131 Cambridge St.
Boston MA 02114

6 years back -

1. Sexuality - affectional/sexual feelings for other women
Worship service -
2. Resources - Cowim -
MCC
Gay Caucus
Women's Councils
3. Self-definition - assume nothing
4. WE ARE ALL DYKES !